

**JOAN OF
ARC. A POEM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649020126

Joan of Arc. A poem by Robert Southey

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ROBERT SOUTHEY

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JOAN OF ARC

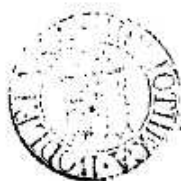
JOAN OF ARC

A Poem

NOT AWARDED
THE VICE - CHANCELLOR'S PRIZE

" Another Athens shall arise,
And to remoter time
Bequeath, like sunset to the skies,
The splendour of her prime."

—Skelley



LONDON
KERBY & ENDEAN, 190 OXFORD STREET
1876

280 . 0 . 10





P R E F A C E.



THE poem which I now present to the public was *not* awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Prize in the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity, near Dublin, etc. etc. Whether this fact will insure its meeting with an unfavourable reception or not, I am of course unable to foretell. There are, doubtless, many who will not care to read

a production which has been already stamped with the brand of failure; but I cannot help hoping that there may be a few who will be piqued by curiosity to see what it is that so boldly refuses to be, without a struggle, consigned to oblivion, even by the unfavourable decision of Trinity College critics. These gentlemen have either considered my poem good, but not equal to those which have been successful, or they have deemed it below their standard. In the former case, I have not a word to say, — except that I rejoice greatly that Ireland has produced two poets better than myself; that I anxiously await the opportunity of reading their compositions;

and that I ardently desire to make their acquaintance. In the latter case, I do not affect humility which I cannot feel, nor pretend that I consider the judgment of those who could announce 'Mr. Dickens' as a subject for English verse, superior to my own; on the contrary, I confess that I have a low opinion of their intelligence.

Before passing to the few prefatory remarks which I desire to make with respect to the Poem itself, I shall pause to express my disapprobation of what has now become a regular custom in Trinity College; namely, altering the published dates of events. In

the Calendar it was announced that all compositions for Vice-Chancellor's Prize should be sent in before the 1st of December, and that the result should be declared on the 1st of January. These dates were altered to the 31st of December and the 1st of February. As a matter of fact, the result was not known even then. The information with respect to this change was posted at the College gate, but it was forgotten that non-resident students might not hear of it; and thus the following Poem, which was begun on the 5th of November, was sent in on the 1st of December, not quite a month being occupied in its composition. Whether the Board